

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, and ferric chloride.

4. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 having a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

5. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 having a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

6. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 having a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 having a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

9. (Currently Amended) The coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer ~~particulate~~ composition of claim 29 having a ~~delayed free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

10. (Currently Amended) A coated superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising

- a) a superabsorbent polymer particulate comprising from about 55 to about 99.9 wt.% of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomers; and from about 0.001 to about 5.0 wt.% of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer; wherein the composition has a degree of neutralization of more than ~~about~~25%; and
- b) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% of a ~~salt-coating~~ containing salt selected from a group consisting of monovalent salts, divalent salts, trivalent salts and higher salts on the superabsorbent polymer particulate surface;

wherein the coated ~~superabsorption~~ superabsorbent polymer particulate ~~having~~ has a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about ~~[[3]]~~ 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds ~~wherein the salt coating is selected from calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride and ferric chloride~~ according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, and wherein when the coating of (b) is washed off the superabsorbent polymer particulate of (a), the resulting superabsorbent polymer particulate has a water absorption property of absorbing about 5.7 grams or more of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

15. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a ~~delayed-free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a ~~delayed free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about ~~[[3.6]]~~ 3 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 13 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

18. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a ~~delayed free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 2 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 25 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 18 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

19. (Currently Amended) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 having a delayed free water absorption property of absorbing about 1 gram or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, a centrifuge retention capacity of retaining 28 grams or more of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer and having an absorbency under load at 0.9 psi of retaining more than 16 grams of aqueous saline per gram of superabsorbent polymer.

Claims 20-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer comprising:

a) from about 55% to about 99.9 % by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer based on the superabsorbent polymer; and

b) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer; wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than ~~about~~ 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles;

further comprising on the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles

(c) from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the dry superabsorbent polymer composition; ~~wherein the superabsorbent polymer particles of step (c) are heated at a temperature of from about 85°C to about 210°C to form surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer particles; and~~

(d) from about 0.5 to about 20 wt.% by weight of a ~~water insoluble inorganic metal compound~~ coating containing salt selected from a group consisting of monovalent salts, divalent salts, trivalent salts and higher salts coated onto the surface of the superabsorbent polymer particles ~~including wherein the coating includes a metal salt based on the dry superabsorbent polymer composition;~~

wherein the coated surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition has a ~~delayed free~~ water absorption property of absorbing about 3.6 grams or less of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test, and wherein when the coating of (d) is washed off the surface crosslinked

superabsorbent polymer composition of step (c) the resulting surface crosslinked superabsorbent polymer composition has a water absorption property of absorbing about 5.7 grams or more of water per gram of superabsorbent polymer in about 15 seconds according to the Free Water Absorption 15 second (FWA<sub>15sec</sub>) Test.

Claims 30-31 (Canceled)

31. (New) The coated superabsorbent polymer particulate of claim 10 wherein the salt is selected from calcium chloride, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium nitrate, magnesium chloride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, and ferric chloride.